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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR APRIL 6, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for April 6, 2005.

Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA): A religious ceremony was held in Saint Pavlus Catholic Church in central Adana and the mourners including Catholics living in Adana attended the ceremony to pay their respects to the late Pope. In Mersin, the AKP (Justice and Development Party) Provincial Administration Board visited Mersin's Roman Catholic Church to pay tribute to the Pope.

CUMHURIYET / HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / BOLGE: An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.6 on the Richter scale shook Adana yesterday at 8.49 a.m. There was reportedly no loss of life, injury or damage to the property.

BOLGE / EKSPRES: Abdullah Dogru, AKP Provincial Chairperson, paid a visit to the Cukurova Journalists Association (CJA) to congratulate the new administration of the CJA. During their meeting, Dogru said that the ruling party's aim in Turkey is to get rid of all corruption and bring welfare to Turkey.

BOLGE / EVRENSEL: Radio Dunya in Adana protested the Supreme Board of Radio and Television (RTUK) decision to issue a one-month ban on radio channel's broadcast. The Chief Director of the Dunya Radio claimed that the station had quoted excerpts from the books that the Ministry of Tourism and Culture approved; therefore, the penalty imposed was reportedly not logical.

BOLGE / EKSPRES: April 10 is the first anniversary of the death of one of the most prominent businessmen and the owner of one of the biggest family businesses in Turkey, Sakip Sabanci. Sabanci, who was born in Adana and who was also the founder of Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACC), will be remembered at a tribute ceremony to be held by ACC.

RADIKAL / OZGUR GUNDEM: Young members of the two clans (the Kecan and Haruna clan) in Idil district of Sirnak engaged in a bitter fight yesterday. Adil Abay (from the Kecan clan), was stabbed and died on the scene. Upon hearing about his death, his relatives gathered and threw stones at the business of a man from the Haruna clan and at (for unspecified reasons) the house of the Idil Mayor, Resul Sadak, who is a DEHAP (Democratic People's Party) member.

CUMHURIYET / RADIKAL / OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL: Hamit Bayram, the son of former Van deputy Mustafa Bayram, had been arrested on charges of drug smuggling last year (see press summary 10/15/04). He later escaped from police, allegedly with help from the Bayram family. He was later caught in Ankara. Hamit Bayram has now reportedly been released from the prison and will be tried without being kept under detention.

RADIKAL / CUMHURIYET / EVRENSEL: The 79th anniversary of Ataturk's being elected as an honorary citizen of Diyarbakir was celebrated with various activities. After the ceremonial wreath-laying and paying tribute to the statue of Ataturk, which was carried out by the Governor Efsan Ala, Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir and Jandarma Regional Commander Kemal Alatas, the Diyarbakir Municipality Folk Music Chorus sang Kurdish and Turkish folk songs.

OZGUR GUNDEM / EVRENSEL: Wolves came down to the Cukuruca village of Hakkari and attacked a flock of 60 goats and killed the animals. The goats were reportedly the only source of livelihood for the three owners of the goats.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Tension escalated in the Cumra village of Konya, where MHP (National Movement Party) members reportedly beat three Kurds. The Sub-Governor Osman Tastan reportedly said that the windows of the houses and stores of the three Kurdish families in the village were broken, but none of the Kurds' lives were threatened.

HURRIYET / OZGUR GUNDEM: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reportedly is trying to reach agreements with people who were affected by military operations in southeastern Turkey, whose villages were reportedly evacuated, properties were damaged or houses were burnt down. To prevent the possibility of being rendered liable by the European Court of Human Rights to compensate citizens, it seems Turkey will be adopting a policy

of "negotiating" with its southeastern citizens who have applied for compensation within Turkey after legislation passed last year on this subject.

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